

Ngày 1 tháng 9, 2009: DÂN BIỂU, U SANCHEZ KẾSU GÁ»CỈ VIÁ»T NAM PHÁ»NG THÁ»
CÁ»C TẤ™ NHẢ, N CHẢ»NH TRÁ»S VẢ€ TẤ™N GI

XIN PHÁ»' BIỂU»N GÁ»P

Contact: Caroline Hogan

Ngày 1 tháng 9, 2009

(202) 225-2965

Lilly Ngá»c Hiá»u Nguyá»...n

(714) 621-0102

DÂN BIỂU, U LORETTA SANCHEZ VÀ Ầ»Á»'NG NGHỈÁ»T P KẾU GÁ»CỈ VIÁ»T NAM PHÓNG THÍCH CÁC TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH
TRÁ»S VÀ TÔN GIÁO Tá» I VIÁ»T NAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hôm qua, Dân Biể»fu Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) cùng tám Ầ»Á»'ng nghĩá»t p Quá»c Há»™i Ầ»Á»'ng ký
tên trong má»™t bá»©c th»° gá»-i Ầ»Á»'n Chá»§ Tá»'ch Nhà N»°á»'c Viá»t Nam, Nguyá»...n Minh Triá»'t yêu cá»§u
phóng thích h»°n 100 tù nhân chính trá»' và tôn giáo tá»i Viá»t Nam. Má»—i n»°m, nhà cá»°m quyá»•n Viá»t Nam phóng th
má»™t sá»' tù nhân trong dá»p "Ngày Quá»c Khánh" hàng n»°m. Tuy Ầ»ã có gá»§n 5,500 tù nhân dá»± Ầ»Á»'nh Ầ»°á»£c p
thích trong ngày 02 tháng 9, dân biể»fu Sanchez và các Ầ»Á»'ng nghĩá»t p muá»'n nhá»°n má»°nh vá»• và»°n Ầ»Á»'• nhân
quyá»•n Ầ»Á»'n vá»°i Chá»§ tá»'ch Triá»'t mà ông Ầ»ã há»©a cá»°i thiá»'n và kêu gá»•i sá»± phóng thích cá»§a các nhà
Ầ»°u tranh dân chá»§ và các vá»' lãnh Ầ»°o tôn giáo ôn hoà.

"Bá»©c th»° này kêu gá»•i tá»± do cho h»°n 100 nhà Ầ»Á»'i kháng chính trá»' và tôn giáo Ầ»ã bá»' nhà cá»°m quyá»•n Viá»t
Nam bá»t giá»' vì há»• Ầ»ã bày tá»° quan Ầ»iá»fm ôn hoà cá»§a há»•", Dân biể»fu Sanchez nói. "Nhá»'ng cuá»™c bá»t
bá»' này liên tá»°c nêu lên sá»± không thiá»'n chí cá»§a nhà n»°á»'c Viá»t Nam Ầ»Á»'i vá»°i vá»°n Ầ»Á»'• nhân quyá»•n.
Trong lúc Viá»t Nam sá»°n sàng trong vai trò Chá»§ tá»'ch Há»™i Ầ»Á»'ng Bá»°o An Liên Hiá»'t p Quá»c, tôi hy vá»°ng
quá»c gia này sá»°½ tích cá»±c h»°n trong vá»°n Ầ»Á»'• chá»°nh lá»i uy tín Ầ»Á»'i vá»°i cá»™ng Ầ»Á»'ng quá»c tá»
cá»§a mình bá»°ng cách tôn trá»°ng nhá»'ng quyá»•n tá»± do chính trá»', và dân sá»± c»°i bá»°n cá»§a ng»°á»i dân
Viá»t Nam."

Mã»™t nhóm dân biá»fu Há»i Viá»n thuá»™c lÆ°á»ng Ä°Æng Ä°ã ký vào lá thÆ° bao gá»m: dân biá»fu Loretta Sanchez (CA), dân biá»fu Chris Smith (R - NJ), dân biá»fu Zoe Lofgren (D - CA), dân biá»fu Anh "Joseph" Cao (R - LA), dân biá»fu Ed Royce (R - CA), dân biá»fu Gerald Connolly (D - VA), dân biá»fu Frank Wolf (R - VA), dân biá»fu Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), và dân biá»fu Michael Honda (D - CA).

DÆ°á»i Ä°ây là nguyên vĂfn cá»sa lá thÆ° Ä°ã Ä°Æ°á»c gá»i Ä°i.

His Excellency Nguyá»n Minh Triá»t,

President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Embassy of Vietnam

1233 20th St, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Triá»t,

We are writing to convey our concern about the ongoing detention of the many political and religious prisoners in

Vietnam. The continued incarceration of these individuals for exercising what we believe to be their internationally guaranteed rights is unacceptable and remains an obstacle to improved bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam.

We are aware that your September 2nd National Day holiday is a traditional time to grant the early release of prisoners. As such, we have compiled a list of over 100 individuals detained in Vietnam for the peaceful expression of political or religious views. We ask for your assistance in ensuring that these prisoners are released without condition or restrictions. Such an action would greatly benefit U.S.-Vietnamese relations and be an important gesture of global leadership as Vietnam again prepares to assume the Presidency of the UN Security Council.

Based on information from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and international human rights advocacy organizations, the list we have compiled includes individuals who have been detained for peacefully expressing their political opinions and associating with others who shared these opinions, publicly advocating for internationally guaranteed human rights or legal reforms, organizing independent labor associations, or engaging in independent religious activity or religious freedom advocacy. Many of these individuals were arrested under vague national security laws which do not conform to international human rights standards. In addition, many of these individuals were tried without access to legal counsel and were prevented from presenting an adequate defense at trial. Some of these people are currently being held in solitary confinement, forced to perform hard labor, and are in poor health.

According to Vietnam's Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Vietnam is a party, all citizens are entitled to enjoy freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, the right to form associations, and the right to counsel and a fair trial. The Vietnamese Government's continued detention of individuals for the peaceful expression of their religious and political views calls into question your nation's commitment to these fundamental principles.

The U.S.-Vietnamese relationship should not be confined to trade, investment, or security interests. Internationally guaranteed human rights will remain an important interest for Members of Congress, the American people, and the international community. We are committed to working with you on ways to ensure both future prosperity and the full protection of human rights.

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